

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-30. (Canceled)
31. (New) A vacuum system comprising:
a vacuum source;
a connector comprising an inlet, an outlet in communication with the vacuum source, a separation chamber in communication with the inlet, an air pathway in communication with the separation chamber and the outlet, and a fluid pathway separate from the air pathway and in communication with the separation chamber;
an end effector in communication with the inlet; and
a removable decontamination unit adapted to be coupled to the connector.
32. (New) The vacuum system according to claim 31, wherein the decontamination unit comprises a collapsible container containing a pre-measured amount of decontaminant.
33. (New) The system of claim 31, further comprising a flowmeter coupled to the fluid pathway, and a microprocessor in communication with the flowmeter and capable of calculating flow rates and total volume.
34. (New) The system of claim 33, further comprising an input device in communication with the microprocessor.
35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the input device includes a key pad.
36. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the vacuum source includes a centrifugal separator.

37. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the connector further comprises a bioaerosol inlet separate from the inlet, and in communication with the outlet.

38. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the connector further comprises a volumetric indicator coupled to the fluid pathway.

39. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the connector further comprises a collection chamber in communication with the separation chamber.

40. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the connector further comprises a vacuum regulator in cooperation with the inlet.

41. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the separation chamber includes a baffle in cooperation with the inlet for optimizing the separation of liquid and gaseous material.

42. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the separation chamber includes a filter in cooperation with the inlet for optimizing the separation of solid materials.

43. (New) A vacuum connector adapted to be operably coupled to a vacuum source, the vacuum connector comprising:

- one or more inlets, at least one of which is adapted to be operably coupled with an end effector;

- an outlet adapted to be operably coupled with the vacuum source;

- one or more separation chambers in communication with one or more of the inlets;

- an air pathway from the inlet to the separation chamber and then to the outlet;

- a fluid pathway from the inlet to the separation chamber, the fluid pathway being separate from the air pathway; and

- a removable decontamination unit adapted to be coupled to an inlet of the connector.

44. (New) The vacuum connector of claim 43, wherein the separation chamber includes a baffle in cooperation with the inlet for optimizing the separation of liquid and gaseous material.